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Submitted to:

Members of The Legislature of Alberta

November 1980

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PROGRESS REPORT
AND
FUNDING PROPOSAL

Submitted by:

Alberta Committee of

Action Groups of the

Disabled

This Progress Report and Funding Proposal is intended to highlight the previous year's events. We, as a volunteer, non-profit society try to improve the qualitative day to day lifestyles of persons who happen to have a physical disability.

A number of these events have been omitted due to space limitations and justice to other events. In particular: The "Festival of the Arts for the Disabled" held in Red Deer, November 7, 8, and 9, 1980; and the Alberta Teachers Associations' "Task Force on the Integration of the Handicapped."

As the enthusiasm of eighty-one builds, the Alberta Committee of Action Groups of the Disabled perceives the education of the non-disabled towards consumers (to be centered around the United Nations theme of Full-Participation) to be the cornerstone of the year, 1981.

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HUMAN RIGHTS

Ammendments to the Individual Rights Protection Act, including physical characteristics, was proclaimed on September 1, 1980. After five years, four briefs, ten resolutions at two different conferences, a participatory democratic campaign during the 1979 provincial election, a strike by blind workers and numerous informal presentations (to Human Rights Commissioners at both levels of government, MLA's of all parties and the MLA/Handicapped Joint Committee), comprehensive coverage on a provincial level has arrived. What now is of more significance in the field of civil rights, is the application of non-discriminating practices. The Technical Advisory Committee, comprised of representatives from the Department of Labor and various groups within the disabled community, was set up to discuss and review the practical problems of architectural and environmental barriers posed to persons with physical disablities. It's a positive and essential step in the appropriate direction of government, service-providers and volunteer organizations of disabled persons working in co-operation.

There still remains problems with Special Programs within the primacy legislation (see conference report for a detailed discussion), but at least it can be said that with time disabled persons can work from the inside out. The Committee's role now, is based on a process of informing disabled persons of their civil rights and how they can express these social rights consistent with their duties and obligations within their community.

NATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

1980 has seen the Alberta Committee present its concerns to federal commissioners, steering committees, task forces and special parliamentary committees that have come to Alberta. To review and discuss to any deserving detail the extent and nature of the recommendations made to these federal government organizations is an injustice to those presentations and beyond the scope of this progress report. What can be said, however, is the development of five fundamental principles presented to each of these organizations with increasing degrees of success. The principles are:

(1) Principle of Equality;

(2) Principle of Full-Participation;

(3) Principle of Integration of Services;

(4) Principle of Individuality of Services;

(5) Principle of Accountability.

While these principles are by no means new or unique, they are unique to to the Disabled Consumer Movement. They hinge on the concept and practice of an individual's sovereignty and self-reliance. Consumer sovereignty is the touchstone of the free market economy. The Disabled Consumer Movement consists of being "informed" about product reliability and service provision in respect to the five principles outlined above. How these principles apply to different areas of concern depends on the disabled person's lifestyle under scrutiny. In very general terms, the doctrine of consumer sovereignty, sometimes referred to as consumer involvement,

promotes the five principles because disabled persons are the best judges of their own interests and desires. They have the larger voice in determining what services and programs are provided in the disablity services market.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS/WORLD CONGRESS IN WINNIPEG

Before discussing the Rehabilitation International World Congress, it is important to state that a National Conference on the "Parameters of Rehabilitation", sponsored by the Coalition of Provincial Organizations of the Handicapped (C.O.P.O.H.) and hosted by the British Columbia Citizens with Disabilities (B.C.C.D.) took place in Vancouver on May 3, 4, and 5th. This conference was intended as a prelude to the World Congress. Among the numerous recommendations proposed and passed at this consumer conference was the following resolution:

> WHEREAS the disabled consumer is seldom involved in the development of his rehabilitation plan; and
>
> WHEREAS the disabled consumer should be entitled to be; and it is more effective and beneficial if he is directly involved in the development of his rehabilitaion plan:
>
> THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that C.O.P.O.H. advocate federal legislation providing that any service agency supplying rehabilitation services (which require federal funds either directly or on a provincially cost-shared basis) be required to develop an individually written rehabilitation plan, in consultation with the consumer, and in the event of a dispute there be an appeal to an independent third party. Each plan shall incorporate definite time limits with clearly defined objectives, specific review methods and an appeal mechanism.

The impact of the Consumer Movement on the World Congress far outweighed the number of consumer delegates. Approximately two hundred and fifty out of an estimated three thousand, five hundred delegates were disabled. Although the principle that disabled consumers should have the larger voice in Rehabilitation International was defeated (sixty-two against and thirty-seven in favor), a World Consumer Movement, independent of service-providers and government, was voted on and established in principle.

ANNUAL PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE

A number of government and private sector initiatives began during the summer and culminated with the Committees Conference held in September in Calgary. One such government program which came under evaluation was Home Care. A questionnaire was developed by the Home Care Directorate, Social Services and Community Health. A number of committee members were interviewed as to their concerns about the Home Care program. As a direct result of this questionnaire, one of the topics of discussion at the Annual Conference was Comprehensive Care support services. For details, please refer to the Conference Report, "There Otta Be A Law."

Another significant component of the Annual Conference was the Special General Meeting which resulted in the election of seven consumers and four alternates to what Services for the Handicapped coined "Core Group Proposals." For a number of years and for a variety of (competing) reasons, government

has been attempting to set up a provincial voice of the physically disabled with little success. As a result of a meeting held on June 5, 1980 a formula for equal representation on a Core Group was agreed to by consumers and service-providers (for further details, see the Conference Report).

PROVINCIAL EVENTS

A number of other program evaluations emerged as the summer progressed. One such important evaluation was the Home Adaptation Program as operated by Alberta Housing and Public Works. An initial questionnaire was agreed to by government, service-providers and consumers at a meeting in Edmonton on June 6, 1980. These questionnaires were distributed throughout the province during the summer. On September 23rd, the survey results were disclosed to, and discussed with, a representative sampling of consumers, service-providers and government officials. Some of the major concerns expressed by consumers and service-providers were the narrow entrance criteria [i.e. only open to wheelchair users], the amount of grant per adaptation and the kinds of adaptations that would be approved. In order to effectively deal with the concerns of consumers throughout Alberta, an extensive position paper is in the making on this specific aspect of housing. Along with this crucial subject, a "Housing Alternatives and Support Services" one-day workshop is presently being planned between this committee, the Alberta Rehabilitation Council

for the Disabled and interested persons in the Medicine Hat region of Alberta. A tentative date of December 6, 1980 has been set. A proposal has been drafted by A.R.C.D. and the Alberta Committee. We are waiting for local approval of consumers and service-providers in Medicine Hat.

As a direct result of the Alberta Committee's participation in the Vancouver Conference of the Parameters of Rehabilitation, the committee was approached by the Federal Government to initiate and administer a summer project to employ thirteen students with the overall goal of raising awareness of the International Year of Disabled Persons. Two significant goals have been achieved as a direct result of these summer projects. 1981 Steering Committees comprised of service-providers and consumer organizations are operating in both Edmonton and Calgary. Plans for theatrical presentations depicting disabilities and involving disabled persons are underway in both Lethbridge and Red Deer.

A second result of the summer student employment program has been the compilation of a Consumer Guide to Services and Programs Available in Edmonton and Calgary. The committee has required interim funding to continue the editing of the Handibook. We are in the process of negotiating publication and distribution of the eight thousand guides at this time. If funding is secured, the Consumers' Guide will begin distribution January 1, 1981.

FUNDING

In spite of the serious difficulties experienced by the Alberta Committee, the committee has reorganized its administration of annual provincial funding to continue to present a consumer point of view (based on voluntary board committment & participation) to government and private sector service-providers at all levels. This reorganization was executed with the help of the Minister of Social Serices, Honorable Bob Bogle.

In keeping with this philosophy, we present for your anticipated approval our 1981-82 budget.

1981-82

FUNDING PROPOSAL

July 25, 1980

Mr. Jim Killick
Provincial Co-ordinator
Services for the Handicapped
11th Floor, 7th Street Plaza
10030 107 Street
EDMONTON, Alberta

Dear Mr. Killick:

Pursuant to our meeting with the Minister, I, on behalf of the Alberta Committee of Action Groups of the Disabled, agreed to submit a preliminary budget for the fiscal year 1981-1982. Please find below our initial estimate of expenditure for April 1, 1981 - March 31, 1982.

REVENUE

1. Province of Alberta	$ 55,330
2. Ability Fund	5,000
	60,330

EXPENDITURES

Office Rent	5,916
Telephone & Untilities	3,500
Postage	1,500
Accommodation & Transport (Board and Staff)	12,000
Printing & Photocopying	4,500
Office Materials	500
Salaries a) Researchers	14,560
b) Facilitators	14,560
Employee Benefits	1,160
Office Maintenance	900
Publications & Subscriptions	300
Inservice Training	700
Bank Charges	300
	$60,396
DEFICIT	66

The request is for a general 10% over 1980-81 even though that increase is not evenly distributed over all expenditure categories. Due to the situation of the last three months I will not be able to reasonably estimate a pattern of expenditures until September 30, 1980. However I do not anticipate any additional requests for funds.

If you have need of additional information please call me at 477-9146.

Yours truly,

Marvin Foulkes
Accountant

Ken Metrunec
Treasurer

1980 BRIEFS

1) Taxi-cab Bylaw (January)

2) A Proposal On Human Rights (January)

3) Job Adaptations and Persons With Physical Disabilities (March)

4) The Consumer Movement in Alberta (June)

5) Comprehensive Care (July)

6) Vocational Integration - The Role Of The Consumer In Their Rehabilitation Process (November)

7) The Integration of Disabled Students Into Mainstream of The Public Educational System (November)

* * * * * *

THREE-YEAR COMMITTEE OBJECTIVES

	1981	1982	1983
I - ORGANIZATION			
A. Board of Directors	- Review and restructure to cover entire province →	Implement →	Evaluate and review if required
	- Review and revise by-laws if required →	Implement →	Evaluate and revise if if required
	- Extraordinary resolutions at General Meeting →		
	- Establish basic committees →	Terms of reference clearly identified - need for additional committeed to be determined →	Committees well established
	- Incorporate more involvement of non-board staff members through the committees →	Increase active membership →	
	- Invite government representation on board ex officio →	Develop projects in co-operation with government that will maximize improvement in the life-styles of disabled people →	
COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE:	Executive Committee		
STAFF PERSON RESPONSIBLE:	Managing Director		

	1981	1982	1983
B. Staff	- Increase staff ratio →	Operate for one year under recommended system →	Evaluate and revise as required
	- Define and prepare written job descriptions and salaries →	Make minor adaptations as required	
	- Establish policy and procedure manual		
	- Define staff/board responsibilities →	Monitor to ensure there is a sufficient division of labor →	
COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE:	Personnel Committee		
II - PROGRAMS OBJECTIVE: To improve & expand the life-styles of persons with physical disabilities.			
A. Awareness Campaign	- Provincial campaign to educate the disabled, non-disabled and employers of the needs, concerns and abilities of people with physical disabilities. NON-SYMPATHETIC APPROACH →	Campaign to become a yearly project →	Campaign to be well established
		Continue educational aspects →	
	- Involve non-board members →	Active membership involvement →	

	1981	1982	1983
	- Government fund supported →	Expand fund raising activites to include public sector →	Financial base of the Alberta Committee of Action Groups of the Disabled to be diversified with government, private corporations and public support
COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE:	Finance Committee		
B. Public Relations	- Develop a written information package on the goals and objectives of the Alberta Committee of Action Groups of the Disabled →	Distribution of PR package →	Review and revise as required
		Board/Staff to speak at meetings →	
COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE:	Public Relations Committee		
III - BRIEFS/PROJECTS OBJECTIVE: To act as a resource to the provincial government, provincial & private groups as well as to individuals who are involved and/or interested in improving and expanding the life-styles of persons with physical disabilites	- Alberta Aids to Daily Living Program Review - Independent Living - The Disabled Consumer Movement - Architectural Barriers - Comprehensive Care		

	1981	1982	1983
A. Planning Meeting	- To be held yearly in different areas of the province →	→	→
	- Invite delegates from provincial government and from consumer and service organizations who represent disabled people →	Increase provincial representation by including any interested persons →	→
	- Define and establish how the Alberta Committee can best fulfil its goals and objectives →	Implement →	Review and revise as required
B. Provincial Input	- Invite consumers and service providers from Grande Prairie, Medicine Hat and Lloydminster to participate on Alberta Committee Board →	Continue to invite people from various areas of the province to participate →	→
C. Briefs/Projects	- To be representative of individuals as well as group needs →	→	→
	- Provincial input whenever feasible →	→	→
	- Minimum of 5 briefs →	Increase when staff ratio increases →	Review and increase or decrease as required re maintaining high quality
COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE:	Development Committee		

Date Due

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International Year of Disabled Persons

1981

Année internationale des personnes handicapées